



Sharing your EnviroTrek

Lunchtime at the Massachusetts Envirothon

The testing is over. It's a good time to unwind, meet new friends from all over the state, and share stories about YOUR Envirothon year:

- * close encounters with soil, water, trees, wildlife
- * people or places that matter in your neighborhood
- * a project you are planning or doing in your community
- * your Current Issue research

You might:

- * print out photos, photos, photos that show what you did
- * spread out your maps and other presentation visuals
- * give others an experience of your Trek as well as a description
- * share a burning question or point of view, then listen to others' perspectives on it
- * bring an object that expresses a key idea to start a conversation
- * bring a sensory sample from your Trek - sights, sounds, smells, tastes, touches

EVERY TEAM is invited to share experiences from their EnviroTrek – their Envirothon year – at lunchtime at the Envirothon. It's as easy as spreading out your Current Issue presentation materials. You will be amazed at all the ideas and places that will be represented!

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED to share something about the places that matter to you as well as your stories and projects. You can use objects, samples, activities, and photos - as well as words - to start the conversation.

Several All-Star EnviroTrek stories will be featured on the Mass Envirothon website.

Here's how it works:

Your team works hard, plays hard, meets new people, finds new places, tries new experiences, gets wet, gets dirty, gets tired, designs a t-shirt, stays up late to prepare, and generally has a good time through the year as you get ready for the May Envirothon. This is your EnviroTrek!

During the EnviroTrek Lunch, each team has a home table. At each table, two or three "home team" members share their team's experiences with "visitors" from other teams.

The place buzzes with stories, ideas, opinions, and concerns as each home team shows and tells about their experiences, and visitors offer their own questions and views.

Visitors move from table to table, and the process begins again. Team members take turns sitting at the home table and visiting other tables.

EVERYONE at the Envirothon - teams, judges, coaches, volunteers, sponsors - is welcome to join in!

To prepare, you might:

CHOOSE some funny stories to tell, or pictures, from your Envirothon year.

SIMPLY BRING your Current Issue presentation materials (maps, photos, documents) and be prepared to share what you discovered.

PLAN a fun, powerful way to introduce your community and any projects you are doing there.

CREATE a simple, one-page handout, a way people can remember you.

Questions? Contact Will Snyder at wsnyder@umext.umass.edu